



Federal Lands Transportation Program Fact Sheet

Transportation Safety In Our National Parks

Access to and within the National Park System has been a defining experience for generations of visitors.

The National Park Service (NPS) coordinates the planning and implementation of transportation systems that improve the visitor experience and care for national parks by:

- Preserving natural and cultural resources.
- Enhancing visitor safety and security.
- Protecting plant and animal species.
- Reducing congestion.
- Decreasing pollution.

NPS is committed to being a leader in pursuing strategies that can help make park units more enjoyable, cleaner, quieter, and more sustainable for present and future generations.

For more information, visit nps.gov/transportation

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The crash rate in the National Park System is similar to the national rate. Over a 16-year period (1990-2005) there were 21,448 injury crashes, resulting in 32,894 injuries. Crashes in the park system cost society approximately \$335 million annually.



The distractions of great scenery and wildlife in parks can lead to crashes, some very serious. (NPS photo)

Safety Goal: Provide a safe transportation system for all users

While visitor and workforce safety are among the highest priorities of the National Park Service, motor vehicle crashes remain a leading cause of serious injury and fatality within the agency.

Improved data collection combined with performance-based planning approaches will allow the National Park Service to identify motor vehicle crash trends, improve prevention strategies, and implement safety counter-measures that increase safety on its transportation networks.

Developing a comprehensive safety management system to collect, analyze, and report transportation safety data is essential for all NPS safety programs, policies, and practices.

The NPS has developed a national crash database which stores and analyzes crash records received from field units. This database, currently titled the Traffic Accident Reporter (TAR), replaces the Servicewide Traffic Accident Reporting System (STARS) which is no longer functional. This database will form the backbone of a future Transportation Safety Management System (TSMS). The Draft NPS national long range transportation plan establishes a performance measure to complete and implement the TSMS within 5 years.

Recent efforts to update crash information have resulted in the recovery of over 40,000 recent records that were not in any national system previously. The Department of Interior has instituted a new reporting system called the Incident Management, Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) where crash records are collected. This system will have a Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) compliant crash module for recording crashes. Deployment of IMARS, including functionality to collect crash records, is currently delayed. The NPS is hopeful that IMARS and a functional crash module will be deployed in 2015. The Department of Interior is leading the IMARS effort (for all Department bureaus) and the crash module development.